IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Added text is underlined and deleted text is either struck through or shown in double enclosing brackets. Applicants aver that no new matter has been added.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of sharing data, the method comprising:

<u>without requiring a proxy device and without requiring a server to enable communications,</u>

      initiating a discovery request from a communication device over a network;

      receiving one or more responses from the discovery request from dissimilar

          communication devices on the network to at least partially determine a network

          topography, the dissimilar communication devices having dissimilar

          communications standards; and

      transmitting data between the communication device and the dissimilar communication

          devices ~~without requiring a proxy device and without requiring a server to enable~~

          ~~communications~~, the communication device and the dissimilar communication

          devices communicating through a common interface that operates in accordance

          with aspects of the communication device and an abstracted version of the

          dissimilar communication devices.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the initiating of the discovery request is performed over a local area network (LAN).

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, and further comprising, prior to said transmitting data, establishing a network connection between said dissimilar communication devices.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said common interface comprises a layered functional hierarchy having multiple layers.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein at least one of said multiple layers comprises a protocol layer, said protocol layer including at least two protocols.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said at least two protocols comprise a messaging protocol and a discovery protocol, the discovery protocol being used to initiate the discovery request.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein at least one of the multiple layers comprises an abstraction layer including the aspects of the abstracted version of the dissimilar communication devices.

8. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said data is transmitted between said dissimilar devices through a layer of said layered functional hierarchy.

9. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein at least one of said layers comprises an operating system layer.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said operating system layer includes the capability to access components of said dissimilar devices.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said data comprises at least one file.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said at least one file comprises a digital media file.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said digital media file comprises at least one of: a digital video file and a digital audio file.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said dissimilar communications devices at least include: computing devices, wherein the computing devices may be configured to exchange data by use of differing protocols, digital audio devices, remote control devices, wireless phones, and digital media devices.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the aspects of the abstracted version of the dissimilar communications devices include: controlling, executing, recording, storing, discovering, and messaging.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said dissimilar communications devices includes a capability to control another of said dissimilar communications devices.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of said dissimilar communications devices includes a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: access digital data, execute digital data, and transfer digital data.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein at least one of said dissimilar communications devices includes the capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: store digital data, transfer digital data, and organize digital data.

19. (Currently Amended) A <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium including a plurality of instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, causes at least one of the one or more processors to perform a method of sharing data, the method comprising:

<u>without requiring a proxy device and without requiring a server to enable communications,</u> initiating a discovery request from a communication device over a network;

receiving one or more responses from the discovery request from dissimilar communication devices on the network to at least partially determine a network topography, the dissimilar communication devices having dissimilar communications standards; and

transmitting data between the communication device and the dissimilar communication devices ~~without requiring a proxy device and without requiring a server to enable communications~~, the communication device and the dissimilar communication devices communicating through a common interface that operates in accordance with aspects of the communication device and an abstracted version of the dissimilar communication devices.

20. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the initiating of the discovery request is performed over a local area network (LAN).

21. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: prior to said transmitting data, establishing a network connection between the dissimilar communication devices.

22. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: said common interface comprising a layered functional hierarchy having multiple layers.

23. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of the multiple layers comprising a protocol layer, the protocol layer including at least two protocols.

24. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: the at least two protocols comprising a messaging protocol and a discovery protocol, the discovery protocol being used to initiate the discovery request.

25. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of the multiple layers comprising an abstraction layer including the aspects of the abstracted version of the dissimilar communication devices.

26. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: the data being transmitted between the dissimilar devices through a layer of the layered functional hierarchy.

27. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 22, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of the layers comprising an operating system layer.

28. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 27, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: said operating system layer including a capability to access components of said dissimilar devices.

29. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: the data comprising at least one file.

30. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 29, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: the at least one file comprising a digital media file.

31. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 30, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: the digital media file comprising at least one of: a digital video file and a digital audio file.

32. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the dissimilar communications devices at least include: computing devices, wherein the computing devices may be configured to exchange data by use of differing protocols, digital audio devices, remote control devices, wireless phones, and digital media devices.

33. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: the aspects of the abstracted version of the dissimilar communications devices including: controlling, executing, recording, storing, discovering, and messaging.

34. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of the dissimilar communications devices including a capability to control another of the dissimilar communications devices.

35. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of the dissimilar communications devices including a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: access digital data, execute digital data, and transfer digital data.

36. (Currently Amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> machine-readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the instructions when executed, further result in: at least one of the dissimilar communications devices including a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: store digital data, transfer digital data, and organize digital data.

37. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

<u>without requiring a proxy device and without requiring a server to enable communications,</u>

a communications device having at least a discovery protocol layer to initiate a discovery request over a network, the communications device further to receive one or more responses from dissimilar communications devices over the network to at least partially determine a network topography, the dissimilar communication devices having dissimilar communications standards, the communications device further to share data with other dissimilar devices ~~without requiring a proxy device and without requiring a server~~ to enable communications; and

a common interface to operate in the communications device and the dissimilar communication devices to allow communications therebetween in accordance with aspects of the communications device and an abstracted version of the dissimilar communication devices.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the communications device and the dissimilar communication devices are capable of forming a local area network (LAN).

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, and further comprising, prior to said sharing data, being capable of establishing a network connection between said dissimilar communication devices.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said common interface comprises a layered functional hierarchy having multiple layers.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein at least one of said multiple layers comprises a protocol layer, said protocol layer including at least two protocols.

42. (Original) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein said at least two protocols comprise a messaging protocol and a discovery protocol.

43. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein at least one of the multiple layers comprises an abstraction layer including the aspects of the abstracted version of the dissimilar communication devices.

44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein said data is capable of being shared between said dissimilar devices through a layer of said layered functional hierarchy.

45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein at least one of said layers comprises an operating system layer.

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein said operating system layer includes a capability to access components of said dissimilar devices.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said data comprises at least one file.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said at least one file comprises a digital media file.

49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said digital media file comprises at least one of: a digital video file and a digital audio file.

50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein said dissimilar communications devices at
    least include: computing devices, wherein the computing devices may be configured to
    exchange data by use of differing protocols, digital audio devices, remote control devices,
    wireless phones, and digital media devices.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the aspects of the abstracted
    version of the dissimilar communications devices include: controlling, executing,
    recording, storing, discovering, and messaging.

52. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein at least one of the dissimilar
    communications devices includes a capability to control another of the dissimilar
    communications devices.

53. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein at least one of the dissimilar
    communications devices includes a capability to perform at least one of the following
    tasks: access digital data, execute digital data, and transfer digital data.

54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein at least one of the dissimilar
    communications devices includes a capability to perform at least one of the following
    tasks: store digital data, transfer digital data, and organize digital data.

55. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

without requiring a proxy device and without requiring a server to enable communications,

    a network;

    a communications device having at least a discovery protocol layer to initiate a discovery
        request over the network, the communications device further to receive one or
        more responses from dissimilar communications devices over the network to at
        least partially determine a network topography, the dissimilar communication
        devices having dissimilar communications standards, the communications device
        further to share data with other dissimilar devices without requiring a proxy
        device and without requiring a server to enable communications; and

    a common interface to operate in the communications device and the dissimilar
        communication devices to allow communications therebetween in accordance
        with aspects of the communications device and an abstracted version of the
        dissimilar communication devices.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 55, wherein the network is a local area network
      (LAN).

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 55 further comprising, prior to the sharing of
      data, being capable of establishing a network connection between the dissimilar
      communication devices.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 57, wherein the common interface comprises a
      layered functional hierarchy having multiple layers.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein at least one of the multiple layers
      comprises a protocol layer, the protocol layer including at least two protocols.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 59, wherein the at least two protocols comprise
      a messaging protocol and a discovery protocol.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 59, wherein at least one of the multiple layers comprises an abstraction layer including the aspects of the abstracted version of the dissimilar communication devices.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the data is capable of being shared between said dissimilar devices through a layer of the layered functional hierarchy.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein at least one of the layers comprises an operating system layer.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 63, wherein the operating system layer includes a capability to access components of the dissimilar communications devices.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 55, wherein the data comprises at least one file.

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 65, wherein the at least one file comprises a digital media file.

67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 66, wherein the digital media file comprises at least one of: a digital video file and a digital audio file.

68. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 55, wherein the dissimilar communications devices at least include: computing devices, wherein the computing devices may be configured to exchange data by use of differing protocols, digital audio devices, remote control devices, wireless phones, and digital media devices.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the aspects of the abstracted version of the dissimilar communications devices include: controlling, executing, recording, storing, discovering, and messaging.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 55, wherein at least one of the dissimilar communications devices includes a capability to control another of the dissimilar communications devices.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 55, wherein at least one of the dissimilar communications devices includes a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: access digital data, execute digital data, and transfer digital data.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 71, wherein at least one of the dissimilar communications devices includes a capability to perform at least one of the following tasks: store digital data, transfer digital data, and organize digital data.

73.-112. (Canceled)